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By the QUEEN, A PROCLAMATION, For a General FAST.

ANNE R.

Whereas We are Engaged in a just War against France *and* Spain, *on the Success whereof the Common Safety of Our Kingdoms doth, under God, wholly depend; And putting Our Trust in Almighty God, that He will Vouchsafe a Special Blessing to this Our so Righteous Undertaking, We have, out of Our own Religious Disposition, Resolved, and do hereby Command, That a General and Publick Fast be Observed, throughout this Kingdom, in such manner as is herein after Directed and Prescribed, that so both We and Our People may Humble Our Selves before Almighty God, in order to obtain Pardon for Our Sins, and may in most Devout and Solemn manner send up Our Prayers and Supplications to the Divine Majesty, for Imploring His Blessing and Assistance on the Arms of Us and Our Allies, and Our and Their Naval Forces, and for Restoring and Perpetuating Peace, Safety, Honour and Prosperity to Our Kingdoms and Dominions, and the Nations and States in Alliance with us. And to the End that so Religious an Exercise may be Observed at one and the same time, We do hereby, with the Advice of Our Privy Council, Publish and Declare to all Our Loving Subjects, and do strictly Charge and Command, That on* Wednesday, *being the Twenty sixth Day of this Instant* May, *this Fast shall be Religiously Kept and Observed throughout Our Kingdom of* England, *Dominion of* Wales, *and Town of* Berwick *upon* Tweed. *And for the more Religious and Orderly Solemnizing the same, We have given Directions to the Archbishops and Bishops of this Kingdom, to Compose a Form of Prayer suitable to this Occasion, to be Used in all Churches and Chapels, and other Places of Publick Worship, and to take Care for the Timely Dispersing thereof through their respective Dioceses. And We do strictly Charge and Command, That the said Publick Fast be Reverently and Decently Performed by all Our Loving Subjects, as they tender the Favour of Almighty God, and would avoid His Wrath and Indignation, and upon Pain of such Punishment as We may justly Inflict on all such as shall Contemn or Neglect the Performance of so Religious a Duty.*

Given at Our Court at *St. James's* the First Day of *May*, 1703. In the Second Year of Our Reign.

GOD Save the QUEEN.

Ratisbonne, April 30. According to our Advices from *Bavaria*, the Elector having found the Count *de Schlick* so advantagiously posted near *Passau*, as not to be attacked but at a very great Disadvantage, contented himself with providing for the Security of his Frontiers, by felling of Trees, and otherwise stopping the Passages, as he had done before, through the Woods near *Passau*, which the Count *de Schlick* had cleared, and by making new Lines and Redoubts, and sent back the best part of his Troops, some whereof, *viz.* his Regiment of Guards, with those of the Electoral Prince of *Lutzelburgh*, *Arco*, *Maffey*, and *Haxhausen*, are passed by this Place in Boats, and they are advancing towards *Donauwerth*, where it is said they are to encamp, in order to join with the *French*, if their Attempts to force a Passage through the Country of *Wirtemberg* or the *Black Forest* succeed. The Elector is returned to *Munich*, where he will probably expect the Issue of that Enterprise. Thus all is very quiet on the Frontiers near *Passau* and *Scharding*; and the Count *de Schlick* having detached all the *Saxon* Forces he had with him, under the Command of Lieutenant-General *Schuylemberg*, to join the Count *de Styrum*, they marched through *Bohemia* into the *Upper Palatinate*, where, as it is said, they in their way made themselves Masters of the Town of *Furth*; They have already passed through the Country of *Cham* without any opposition, and will be this day at *Burcklensfeld*, being ordered to follow the Count *de Styrum* with all possible diligence, who is broke up with his Troops from *Ampach*, and marched towards *Nordlingen*, in order to observe the Motion of the *Bavarian* Troops.

Heilbron, May 1. Our Advices from Prince *Lewis*'s Camp near *Biehl* say, That in the late Action there, his Highness exposing his Person in those Places where there was most Danger, had several Horses shot under him, and received a Musket-shot on his Armour; that all his Troops behaved themselves with great Bravery, particularly the *Prussian* and the *Dutch* Forces: That a Party of the latter sallied out of the Lines while the *French* were retiring, killed a great number of them, and took many Prisoners, among whom were above 60 Officers; That it was said another Party had taken several Pieces of Cannon from the Enemy; And that the *French* in their Retreat having, out of Revenge, burnt several Villages, Prince *Lewis* sent word to the Marshal *de Villars*, That if this Practice was allowed among them, he would order the *French* Prisoners in his hands to be burnt alive; to which the Marshal replied, That it was done contrary to his Orders, and that he had caused 20 of his Soldiers to be hanged for this Fact. Just at the departure of the Post from hence, it is said, That the Marshal *de Villars* has endeavoured to force a Passage through the Valley of *Kintzig*, but was repulsed there also by the *German* Forces under the Command of Count *Prosper* of *Furstemberg*, with the Loss of 2000 Men; But this being only a Report, we know not what Credit is to be given to it, and impatiently wait for a more certain and particular Account. It is also reported, That the Castle of *Rothemberg* in *Franconia*, which was blocked up by a Detachment of the Count *de Styrum's* Army, is surrendered upon Articles, the *Bavarian* Garison, consisting of 400 Men, being allowed to march out with Arms and Bagage.

Francfort, May 3. The News of the Marshal *de Villars*'s being repulsed in his late Attacks on Prince *Lewis*'s Lines near *Stolhoffen*, has occasioned great Joy in these Parts. We are assured that the *French* buried in the Church-yard of *Biehl* above 1200 Men, who were killed in that Action, besides what they buried in other Places: That so many of their wounded Men were brought to *Strasbourg*, that they were forced to take all their Sick out of the Hospitals there to make room for them: That near 500 of the Enemy were taken Prisoners, among whom are many Officers, and their Loss in this Enterprise is computed at above 4000 Men, who were either killed, taken, or deserted, besides that of above 200 Wagons laden with Provisions or Ammunition, 8 Pieces of Cannon, 5 Standards, 6 Colours, and one Pair of Kettle-Drums. The Enemy being retired from before our Lines, the Count *de Tallard* repassed the *Rhine* on the Bridge which they have lately made at the Fort of *Kehl*, and the Marshal *de Villars* marched to *Offenburgh*; But upon the Receipt of some Orders from the *French* Court, the Marshal *de Tallard* has passed the *Rhine* a second time, and joined the Marshal *de Villars*, in order to attempt the forcing of a Passage through the Valley of *Kinzig*, which is guarded by a Body of Imperial Forces under the Command of Count *Prosper* of *Furstemberg*; whereof Prince *Lewis* having Advice, he has sent him a Reinforcement of several Regiments of Horse and Foot; so that we hope they may have the like Success in this Attempt as they had in that which they made upon Prince *Lewis*'s Lines.

From the Camp before Bon, *May* 4. Several Boats arrived here this day sevenight from *Coblentz*, with Four Pieces of heavy Cannon, Two Mortars, several Thousand Fascines, a great quantity of Straw and other Necessaries, which were sent by the Elector of *Triers*, being what he had promised to furnish towards this Siege. The next day some other Boats with the heavy Artillery, Ammunition and Stores, came up from *Cologne*, and more have followed every day since. That day the Elector Palatine, being come to his Castle at *Siegberg*, sent a Compliment to the Duke of *Marlborough* by the Count *de Leschenaines*, whereupon his Grace went the 30th past to wait upon the Elector, whom he met towards the Camp, diverting himself with Hawking, and after about an hour's Conference on Horseback, his Grace returned